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Dear Alistair

### **2015/16 CCG Annual Assessment**

Thank you for meeting with my Team on 27 April 2016 to discuss the CCG's annual assessment for 2015/16. I am grateful to you and your team for the work you did to prepare for the meeting and for the open and transparent nature of our discussions.

The enclosed document provides a brief summative assessment of the assurance meetings held over the last year in terms of the strengths, challenges and areas for improvement against the assurance components in the 2015/16 CCG Assurance Framework, which informed the CCG's 2015/16 annual headline rating.

A number of principles have been applied to the five component assessments to reach the annual headline assessments for 2015/16. It has also been agreed to describe the headline ratings in the 2016/17 language of outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate.

Therefore, the headline rating for Northumberland CCG is inadequate. The principles used to reach this assessment are:

- outstanding is applied where at least one component is outstanding and the others are all good.
- good is applied if:
  - all components are good; or,
  - at least four components are rated as good (or good and outstanding) and one component is requires improvement, unless requires improvement is in the finance or planning components.
- the headline is requires improvement if:

- four components are rated as good (or good and outstanding) and the finance component is assessed as requires improvement or inadequate;
- there is more than one requires improvement component rating; and
- no more than one component is assessed as inadequate.
- the headline is inadequate overall if:
  - more than one component is rated as inadequate;
  - it already has Directions (under section 14.z.21) in force.

For CCGs that are assessed as inadequate, NHS England will apply its legal powers of direction to ensure these CCGs take action to support an improving position.

These assessments were ratified by NHS England's Commissioning Committee when they met on 29 June. The 2015/16 annual assessment will be published on the CCG Assessment page of the NHS England website in mid-July. This year the headline assessment will be shown along with the five component assessments. At the same time the headline assessments only will be published on the MyNHS section of the NHS Choices website. I would ask that you please treat your assessments in confidence until NHS England has published the annual assessment report.

As you will be aware, NHS England has introduced a new Improvement and Assessment Framework for 2016/17. In mid-July, we expect circa 43 out of the 60 indicators in the framework to be uploaded to the myNHS website. Shortly thereafter over the summer, the baseline ratings of the clinical priority areas will be published on the myNHS website. You will be notified in advance of your CCGs rating, the methodology that has been applied, and the support offers for improvement.

Thank you again to you and your team for meeting with us and for the open and constructive dialogue. We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of Northumberland.

Yours sincerely,



**Tim Rideout**

**Director of Commissioning Operations  
NHS England, Cumbria and the North East**